

VZCZCXRO5062

RR RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHDA RUEHDF RUEHFL RUEHIK RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHLN
RUEHLZ RUEHPOD RUEHROV RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHWR #0074 0171508
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 171508Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5773
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHKW/AMCONSUL KRAKOW 1963

UNCLAS WARSAW 000074

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAIR](#) [PL](#) [PTER](#)

SUBJECT: POLAND READIES AIR MARSHALL AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

¶1. (SBU) William Gaches, Assistant Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Paul Rodgers, TSA Representative in Brussels, visited Warsaw December 6-7. While in Warsaw, Gaches and Rodgers met with officials from Poland's Civil Aviation Office to discuss a proposed bilateral air marshal agreement. The agreement would set out rights and responsibilities of both U.S. federal air marshals on board U.S. carrier flights to Poland and of Polish sky marshals on board Polish carrier flights to the U.S.

¶2. (SBU) Polish aviation officials who met with Gaches and Rodgers expressed strong support for the draft agreement that Gaches presented. However, they requested further negotiations on a provision in the agreement that stipulates when U.S. law would apply on a U.S. aircraft departing from Poland. Under the terms of the draft agreement, U.S. law applies when the doors of the aircraft are closed. The Polish officials felt that Polish law should continue in force until the aircraft leaves the ground. Both the U.S. and Polish officials were optimistic that the issue could be resolved.

¶3. (SBU) Gaches said Kip Hawley, TSA Administrator, or one of senior assistants, would come to Poland to sign the bilateral agreement. Gaches added that no date had been set for signing the agreement, but estimated that it would occur in April or May 2008.

¶4. (U) This cable was cleared by Gaches and Rodgers.
ASHE